WHIRRAKEE

August 2013

Vol. 34 No. 7

Registered by Australia Post. Publication No. VBH4462

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF THE BENDIGO FIELD NATURALISTS CLUB

Bendigo Field Naturalists Club Inc.
Address for correspondence: PO Box 396, Bendigo 3552. Web address: www.BendigoFNC.com.au
ISSN 0812-423X e-mail address: info@bendigofnc.com.au

Office Bearers for 2012 - 2013

President	Jan Orr	5443 5668
Vice President	Richard Goonan	
Secretary/Public Officer	Stuart Fraser	5443 1326
Minute Secretary	*position vacant*	
Treasurer	Ben Goonan	
Membership Officer	Anne Bridley	5442 6188
Excursion organiser	John Lindner/Joy Clusker	5448 3406 (after 15/
Syllabus organiser	Ben Goonan	
Librarian	Diana Collier	5443 0137
Garden Convenor/Secretary	*position vacant*	
Hall Management	Maurie Lewis (assisted by Rob Moors)	0407 427179
Whirrakee contact/editor	Sabine Wilkens e-mail: s.wilkens@latrobe.edu.au	5443 2797
Co-editor	Gemma Candy	
Whirrakee mailing coordinator	Vanessa Richardson	
Website coordinator/Webmaster	Ben Goonan	

Membership of the Bendigo Field Naturalists Club is open to all those interested in Natural History. The subscription rates are: Single $34; Family $40; Concession: Single $28.50; Family $34. *Whirrakee* subscription only is $34.

General meetings are held on the second Wednesday of each month. The venue for General meetings is the Golden Square Senior Citizens Building, Old High Street, Golden Square. The meeting starts with a 10 minute thing-of-the night natural history segment. The invited speaker starts at 8:00pm and meetings conclude with supper. The Annual Meeting is held in September.

Committee meetings are held on the third Wednesday of each month at 6:00pm. Members of the Committee are the Office Bearer listed above and the following members: Anne Bridley, Glenise Moors, Joy Clusker, Kerrie Norris, John Lindner.

Excursions are conducted regularly and are advertised on the diary page of the *Whirrakee*. The assembly point for excursions is the Golden Square Senior Citizens Building, unless otherwise specified. Several interclub field naturalist campouts are held every year.

The Bendigo Field Naturalists Club has one sub-group (the Fauna Study Group) and is actively involved in local conservation issues. An **indigenous garden** has been established around the Golden Square Senior Citizens Building. Working bees are advertised on the *Whirrakee* diary page.

Fauna Study Group: Chairman: John Burtonclay, Fadersons Lane, Mandurang (5439 5710)
Secretary: Bill Holsworth, 13 Nabilla Crs., Bendigo (5443 4063)
Equipment Officer: Maurie Lewis (0407 427179)
Regular fauna excursions take place most Fridays. See page 11 for details.

Bird Observing: Club members conduct regular bird surveys. Please contact Anne Bridley 5442 6188 or Glenise Moors 5439 6254 for details. Special bird observations should be reported to Anne Bridley 5442 6188.
To propose bird observing excursions please contact Kerrie Norris 5447 8017.

Front cover photo?...see page 2

WHIRRAKEE

Monthly Newsletter of the Bendigo Field Naturalist Club
Vol. 34, No. 6, July 2013
Whirrakee takes its name from the Whirrakee Wattle (*Acacia williamsonii*), which is virtually endemic to the Bendigo region

CONTENT

Item	Contributor	Page
Short notices		3
June and July Observations	compiled by Rod Orr	3
Colour Photo section	various wonderful photographers	4-7
Wombat Forest Fungi	John Lindner	8
Kooyoora Wildflower Show		9
Changes to the club's Rules of Association	committee (via Anne Bridley)	10

Authors are responsible for the accuracy of the information they use and also for any opinions expressed in their articles. Contributions should be posted or e-mailed to the editor at least two days prior to the last Wednesday of the month. They will be included as soon as possible after they are received, although space restrictions occasionally require shortening of articles or holding them over till the following edition of *Whirrakee*.
Articles in *Whirrakee* may be reproduced, but permission should be obtained from the Bendigo Field Naturalists Club, and acknowledgment should be given to the author and the Club. Some back issues are still available on request.

Editor's Note
The Annual General Meeting is nearly upon us (in September) and it is, once again, time to think about renewing your membership and, if you are not already doing so, contributing in some way to the running of the Club. Nomination forms and renewal notices are included in this edition. If you cannot see yourself nominating as a committee member or office bearer, you can still indicate your willingness to help in a more casual capacity. Contact any committee member and you will be engaged! In this context, can everybody please have a look at the draft 'statement of purpose' for our club on page 10. This is a new requirement and the final statement would benefit from plenty of input and discussion.
This year, we have had many amazing, high-calibre speakers and I have to express my apologies for not publishing a summary of their talks for a while. This is all the more reason for you to attend the meetings, especially since some of these (e.g. this month's speaker) travel a large distance (and all out of the goodness of their hearts). Please note that besides the AGM in September, we also have an additional (also amazing) speaker for that month, see page 3 for details. Enjoy these talks!

Front page photographer: Simon Smith
Yellow-billed spoonbill at Kennington Reservoir, taken in early April this year. There are some other water birds pictured on page 5.

Short Notices

Free to a good home

There are three complete sets of *Whirrakee*, Vols. 27 – 32, 2006 – 2011, that is 6 years, of the periodical available for anyone who would like them or some of them. Does anyone know of others or other groups, institutions etc, who would be interested in a complete set or part of?

Membership Fees for 2013 - 2014

The increased printing cost of producing a coloured section in the *Whirrakee* has meant that our current membership fees no longer cover our running costs.

As a result the BFNC committee have, reluctantly decided to raise the membership fees for the next BFNC financial year commencing on September first.

The new rates are as follows:

Single membership	**$40**
Family membership	**$50**
Single concession	**$35**
Family concession	**$40**
Subscriptions	**$40**

The 'Students' membership category has been discontinued.

There should have been a renewal slip included with your *Whirrakee*.

Email Notifications

If you wish to be advised promptly of interesting sightings, events or other special communications you may wish to subscribe to our club's email notifications service. Subscribers to the service who make an unusual or interesting sighting in our region can email all other members of the service.

Email **subscribe** in the subject line to info@bendigofnc.com.au if you wish to join the service. Include your full name in the body of the email.

Additional meeting for September

The BFNC and 'Spring in the Bendigo Bush' are running a second meeting in September with Dr Beth Gott from Melbourne University speaking on 'Aboriginal food and fiber plants'. 18th September 7.00pm, Golden Square Senior Citizens Hall.

Please note that this is an additional meeting for September and does **not** replace our normal general meeting.

June and July Observations

Complied by Rod Orr

June

Jan Orr at Kennington Reservoir 7:45

A Cattle Egret sharing the mudflat near the BBQ with a Royal Spoonbill and Masked Lapwings. Small groups of Cattle Egrets have visited the reservoir in autumn in the past but this is the first time I've seen a solitary bird there.

July

Jan Orr observed Noisy Friarbirds, Greater Bendigo National Park, Kamarooka East Rd, feeding in Kamarooka Mallee. Flying in close and were very easy to watch. Striped Greenhoods were flowering well and hadn't been damaged by frosts (yet!). John Lindner & Jane Cleary had also seen Noisy Friarbirds.

Anne B: A round trip from Victoria Hill to Hustlers Hill, Comet Hill and through reserves and along creeks was surprisingly interesting from the Natural History point of view. The Ironbarks (both *Eucalyptus tricarpa* and *E sideroxylon*) were flowering well, contributing to extensive bird list of over 20 species. Notable was a Black-shouldered Kite at Comet Hill, as well as several different honeyeaters and small insectivores (Yellow Thornbill, Pardalotes, Weebill). Some of these hilltops have been revegetated by local residents - as well, as containing many tough survivors such as Spreading Wattle and *Dianella* species. The most delightful surprise of the day was a plantation of Ironbarks in Long Gully, which was established some years ago by Laurie Whelan and others.

...continued on page 8

More fungi…this time from the Eaglehawk pine plantation (photographed by Joy Clusker)

Russula purpurioflava

Polyporous arcularius
Fringed polypore ↓

↑ Water Rat at the pond near Kennington Sports Oval, photographed by Rod Orr in May. Rod and Jan were very quiet and just waited until it appeared and swam around, mostly appearing to be hunting for something to eat. When it caught its prey the Water Rat retreated to one of its favourite hiding places around the edge of the pond. It was very active ! (had it remained still for any length of time, the photo might have been a bit sharper).

Beautiful and uncommon water birds Photographer: Simon Smith

Freckled Duck Kennington Reservoir 15/6/2013. These rare birds were also observed by Geoff Park on Joyce's Creek on July 10 this year (see Geoff;s 'Natural Newstead' blog at http://geoffpark.wordpress.com/author/geoffpark/

Sacred Kingfisher, Crusoe Reservoir 28/1/2013

Eastern Great Egret 20/10/2012

Wintery wildlife

← *Pterostylis grandiflora*, the Cobra Greenhood, at Seven Mile Beach National Park. The species also occurs in Victoria but much less commonly than in coastal NSW. (Rod Orr)

Male Flam Robin, Crusoe Reservoir 11/5/2013 (Photographer Simon Smith)

Below: Fuchsia Heath, Barren Grounds Conservation Reserve, NSW. You know that you're in coastal NSW when you find them (Photographer: Rod Orr)

Excursion to Boort, July 14 (Photographer: Pam Sheean). There will be more photos next month.

↑ The Group @ Lake Leaghur

Paul Haw, our wonderful expert guide beside a scar tree at Lake Boort ↓

Suggested that this is a hybrid Mallee/Black-box of significant age in Leaghur State Park ↓

...continued from page 3

Rob Watkins reported having seen an article in a recent copy of *The Australian* announcing that well known naturalist and photographer, John Young, has filmed and recorded calls of the elusive Night Parrot in remote Queensland. The report was published approximately one week ago, and was sent to Rob by a friend in Ballarat.

John Young is an enthusiastic naturalist who spends incredible amounts of time and energy studying and filming elusive birds. Rob and Cynthia came to know John through his involvement with their friend, David Hollands - John built hides for David, often at great heights, using bush timber.

Marion added that Sean Dooley had provided more information in a recent TV interview.

Matthew Comer has observed 5 dead Rabbits over recent days at the Nursery at Mandurang - they have been breeding inside the rabbit-proof fence. They appeared healthy, but seemed to have died suddenly. He is wondering if a disease is spreading through the population. The comment was made that our Vet Lab (Pathology) contact should be informed - Bill Holsworth has contact no.

Marion Hill: Has been hearing Flying Foxes calling quite quietly around her cottage in Long Gully/Ironbark over a period of about 2 months. She has started to realise that they are turning up every night and seem to be quite low down in the vegetation as well as high up in tree tops (also heard by several members (at night)).

Wombat Forest Fungi

In the last edition of Whirrakee, space restriction did not allow the printing of John Lindner's long list of fungi, that were observed at the Wombat forest during the June excursion. Here it is now:

'These are some of the fungi we observed and photographed, but I'm sure I have missed some. Inevitably there are quite a few we were unable to identify. The groupings are from Fuhrer'.

Scientific Name	Common Name
Group / Colour / Substrate	
Amanita xanthocephala	Pretty Grisette
Simple-gilled / Red	Ground
Austropaxillus infundibuliformis	Funnel Pax
Forked gills / Mustard yellow	Ground
Boletus barragensis	Rhubarb and custard
Fleshy pore / Red cap with yellow pores	Ground
Calocera sp.	
Jelly fungi / Orange	Wood
Calostoma fuscum	Common Prettymouth
Puffball / Brown with red marks on the capsule	Ground
Clavaria amoena	
Coral / Orange	Ground
Clitocybe clitocyboides	A funnel cap
Simple-gilled / Cream	Ground
Cortinarius sp.	A cortinar
Simple-gilled / Brown	Ground
Cortinarius rotundisporus	Elegant Blue Cortinar
Simple-gilled / Pale blue	Ground
Cortinarius albo-violaceous	A cortinar
Simple-gilled / Pale violet	Ground
Crepidotus sp.	
Simple-gilled / Orange-brown	Wood
Crepidotus sp.	
Simple-gilled / Pale brown	Wood
Crepidotus nephrodes	
Simple-gilled / White	Wood
Dermocybe splendida	Red Skins
Simple-gilled / Deep reddish	Ground
Dermocybe canaria	Canary Cortinar
Simple-gilled / Yellow	Ground
Dermocybe austroveneta	Green Cortinar
Simple-gilled / Dark green	Ground
Dermocybe sanguinea	A cortinar
Simple-gilled / Deep red	Ground

Dermoloma sp.
Simple-gilled Grey Ground

Discinella terrestris Jelly Discs
Jelly fungi Pale orange Ground

Heterotextus miltinis Yellow Jelly Bells
Jelly fungi Yellow Wood

Hypholoma fasciculare Sulphur Tuft
Simple-gilled Yellow/orange Ground

Hypholoma sublateritum Brick Caps
Simple-gilled Deep orange-brown Ground

Lactarius eucalyptus A milk-cap
Simple-gilled Brownish-red Ground

Laetiporous portentosus White Punk
Bracket White Wood

Macrolepicta clelandii
Simple–gilled White brown Ground

Marasmius crinisequi Horsehair Fungus
Simple-gilled Grey Wood

Mycena sp.
Simple-gilled Brown Wood

Mycena kuurkacea
Simple-gilled Brown Wood

Mycena sp.
Simple-gilled Grey Wood

Mycena interupta Pixie Parasol
Simple-gilled Blue Wood

Nidula emodensis Jellied Bird's Nest Fungus
Bird's nest Pale brown Wood

Panaeolus rickenii Dung Bell Mottlegill
Simple-gilled Dark brown/black Dung

Ramaria lorithamnus
Coral pale-yellow Ground

Ramaria ochraceo-salmonicolour
Coral Salmon pink Ground

Scleroderma sp. Earthball
Hard-skinned Puffball Yellow Ground

Stereum sp.
Leathery shelf Pale brown Wood

Stropharia sp. Dung Round-head
Simple-gilled Brown Dung

Trametes versicolour Rainbow Bracket
Bracket Brown Wood

Trametes sp.
Bracket Brown and grey Wood

Tremella frondosa Brown Witch's Butter Jelly
Jelly fungi Translucent brown Wood

Tremella fuciformis White Jelly
Jelly fungi Translucent Wood

Unidentified
Bracket Pale green Wood

Unidentified
Simple-gilled Grey-brown Ground

Kooyoora Wildflower Show

The 7th Annual Friends of Kooyoora Inc Wildflower Show is on the weekend of Saturday September 14th & Sunday September 15th 2013. The Rheola Hall will be abuzz with a full weekend of activities and displays planned.

Commencing at 10am on Saturday 14th, there will be displays and information from the Friends of Kooyoora Inc., Parks Victoria, the Wedderburn CMN and DEPI as well as stalls selling native plants, books, promotional material and local produce. There will be plenty of fun activities for the kids as well.

The static wildflower display will again be the major attraction with all specimens collected locally by members with a permit from DEPI. The 5th Annual Photographic Competition will run all weekend, with voting closing at 3pm on the Sunday.

Guided wildflower bus tours within the Kooyoora State Park will depart the Rheola Hall at 1pm each day with a guided historical tour through the Wehla Block departing at 10.30am on Saturday and a guided bird watching tour departing at 10.30am on Sunday. We recommend you arrive and register for each tour 15 minutes before departure time so as not to miss out.

This year will feature a **Saturday evening program.** A guest speaker will present on local native orchids from 4.30pm with a star gazing program beginning at nightfall. Overnight camping is available at the Rheola Reserve with BYO camping and cooking equipment and food.
On site catering is available for purchase across the weekend consisting of home made cakes, slices and biscuits and a BBQ for lunch.
Entry prices are Saturday, (10am – 9.30pm): $10 single or $20 family. Sunday, (10am – 4pm): $5 single or $10 family or for a weekend ticket (camping overnight): $15 single or $30 family.
For further information including programs, location maps and photographic competition conditions contact Robert on (03) 5437 3255 or cvosrr@iinet.net.au Wendy on 0417 338 578 or gropergully@activ8.net.au or visit the friends of Kooyoora website at www.kooyoorafriends.org.au

But before the Wildflower Show, join the Friends of Kooyoora on **Sunday August 18th as we do an all day walk around the Eastern Walking Track.** We will meet at the Melville Caves Picnic Ground at 10.30am. BYO food and water and dress appropriately for the weather conditions.

Changes to the club's Rules of Association

To conform with the new *Associations Incorporation Reform Act 2012,* changes will need to be made to the club's Rules of Association.
The committee is currently working on these changes.

As part of those changes, the club will need to have for the first time a statement of purposes. The committee has proposed that the following purposes be considered for adoption by members:

1 To encourage and promote exchange of information and ideas about natural history
2 To pass on our knowledge of natural history to future generations
3 To increase the knowledge of natural history in our members by the use of field trips, lectures, workshops and other educational methods
4 To publish material about the local natural environment.
5 To actively promote and participate in protection of the natural environment
6 To provide educational material, advice and assistance about the natural environment, to schools, organisations, the general public and governments
7 To facilitate research and monitoring of natural ecosystems and their components
8 To encourage and promote protection of natural ecosystems for conservation purposes and their ecological management.
9 To engage in activities relevant to these purposes, including where required cooperating with other groups to achieve these purposes.

Members will be able to vote on these purposes when the new rules of association are considered for adoption at a special general meeting later in the year.
In the meantime, the committee would welcome any comments from club members on them.

Diary

All Club meetings are held at the Golden Square Senior Citizens Building, Old High St Golden Square, unless otherwise indicated.

Wednesday August 14 **7.30pm**

Associate Professor Ian Lunt, Vegetation Ecologist, School of Environmental Science, Charles Sturt University. 'The ecology of natural regeneration in central Victoria'

Regular Fauna Excursions

Every Friday morning starting at around 9 to 9:30 the Fauna Group inspects nest boxes in the Spring Gully area. The excursions are led by Maurie Lewis, 16 Vains St. Golden Square. Phone 0407 427 179. Phone Maurie to confirm exact departure times and location. If you don't phone and go directly to Maurie's house and find nobody at the house between 9 and 9:30, then the excursion is not on.

It may be that these excursions are coming to an end. Make sure you ring Maurie if you'd like to go on such an excursion.

Family Nature Club

August: Sunday 18th August. Wildflowers

September: Sunday 15th September. Bendigo Creek and Birds: Joint activity with 'Spring in the Bendigo Bush'.

Registration:

Bendigonatureclub@gmail.com or 5443-1326

Check out their 2011 and 2012 activities at http://bendigofamilynatureclub.blogspot.com/

Bendigo Native Plant Group meeting.

All interested people are welcome to come along. Meeting starts at 7:30pm on the third Tuesday of the month, Golden Square Senior Citizens Hall.

Next meeting: 20th of August.

Wildlife Rescue & Information Network Inc.

W.R.I.N. is an organisation dedicated to the care of orphaned, sick or injured native animals. It is fully endorsed by the Dept of Sustainability and Environment.

Please call our Emergency Number for Help for Fauna in Need. Phone: 0419 356433.

Regent Honeyeater weekend excursion and work party

Date: Friday 23 (evening) and weekend 24-25 August

Description: Tree planting with Regent Honeyeater Project, Benalla

Rating: Easy, and sometimes just plain hard work

Comment: Work, information sessions, meals

Organiser/Contact: John Lindner, 5448 3406

This long-term *Regent Honeyeater project at Benalla* involves restoring habitat for native fauna, particularly the endangered honeyeater, which once used to frequent Bendigo. We plant indigenous species of trees, shrubs and herbs in well-prepared area, and are informed about the many aspects of the project (eg. nest boxes for arboreal animals, regular bird surveys). Organisation is meticulous. You work pretty hard and go home feeling exhilarated.

What is provided: accommodation in the Guide Hall (mattresses on the floor), Saturday dinner at the TAFE restaurant, Sunday barbeque lunch, hot drinks for morning and afternoon tea.

You need to bring: 2 breakfasts, Saturday lunch, pillows and sleeping bag, old outdoor gear and boots and gloves for the planting work, good clothes for Saturday night dinner, towel, raincoat and beanie.

Please let me know a week before so I can book you in for the catering. I have transport in the ute for 2 other people.

The 7th Annual **Friends of Kooyoora Inc Wildflower Show** is on the weekend of Saturday September 14th & Sunday September 15th 2013 at the Rheola Hall. See page 10 for details.